



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

*Marine Resources Commission
2600 Washington Avenue
Third Floor
Newport News, Virginia 23607*

Douglas W. Domenech
Secretary of Natural Resources

Jack G. Travelstead
Commissioner

November 5, 2012

TO: SUMMER FLOUNDER INDUSTRY

FROM: VIRGINIA MARINE RESOURCES COMMISSION

RE: RE-OPENING OF THE DIRECTED VIRGINIA OFFSHORE SUMMER FLOUNDER FISHERY

Effective 12:01 A.M. Eastern Standard Time, Monday, November 12, 2012, the Directed Virginia Offshore Summer Flounder Fishery will re-open for vessels with a Virginia Summer Flounder Endorsement License. The 2012 commercial offshore quota allocation was 2,713,565 pounds. Virginia landings through October 31 total 1,689,881 pounds. The available remaining offshore summer flounder quota is projected to be 1,023,684 pounds.

- The cumulative landing limit for the Directed Fishery is 10,000 pounds in each fifteen-day landing period. The first fifteen-day landing period will begin November 12, 2012, and end November 26, 2012. Subsequent landing periods will be subject to quota availability.
- It is unlawful for any vessel to land in Virginia any amount of summer flounder more than once in any consecutive 5-day period.
- Only vessels holding a valid Virginia Summer Flounder Endorsement License may possess summer flounder.
- It shall be unlawful for a licensed seafood buyer or federally permitted seafood buyer to fail to contact the Marine Resources Commission Operation Station (757-247-2265 or 1-800-541-4646), prior to a vessel offloading Summer Flounder harvested outside of Virginia. The buyer shall provide to the Commission the name of the vessel and its captain and the anticipated or approximate offloading time.
- Once offloading of any vessel is complete and the total weight of the landed Summer Flounder has been determined, the buyer shall contact the Marine Resources Commission Operations Station and report the vessel name and corresponding total weight of Summer Flounder landed.

An Agency of the Natural Resources Secretariat

www.mrc.virginia.gov

Telephone (757) 247-2200 (757) 247-2292 V/TDD Information and Emergency Hotline 1-800-541-4646 V/TDD

- It shall be unlawful, for any person, to offload, from a boat or vessel, for commercial purposes, any Summer Flounder during the period of 9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.
- Prior to November 12, 2012, or when it is projected and announced that 85% of the projected remaining quota (1,023,684 pounds) has been taken, it shall be unlawful to:
 1. Possess on board any vessel in Virginia waters any amount of Summer Flounder, in excess of 10%, by weight, of Atlantic croaker or the combined landings, on board a vessel, of black sea bass, scup, squid, scallops and Atlantic mackerel, or
 2. Possess on board any vessel in Virginia waters any amount of Summer Flounder, in excess of 1,500 pounds, landed in combination with Atlantic croaker, or
 3. Fail to land and sell the vessel's entire harvest at the point of landing.

After the landing quota has been attained and announced, no boat or vessel possessing summer flounder on board may enter Virginia waters, except for safe harbor. Any boat or vessel possessing summer flounder on board, entering Virginia waters for safe harbor, shall contact the Marine Resources Commission Operations Center in advance of such entry into Virginia waters. Any vessel declaring a need for safe harbor may be subject to inspection by the United States Coast Guard Marine Safety Office.

If you have questions or comments, please contact Joe Cimino at (757) 247-2237 or René Hoover at (757) 247-8068.